

ABSTRACT

An active carbon for use in the treatment of exhaust gas can be obtained by heat-treating a starting active carbon fiber derived from polyacrylonitrile, pitch or the like or a starting particulate active carbon in a non-oxidizing atmosphere. The heat-treating temperature is preferably in the range of 600 to 1,200°C for use in the desulfurization of exhaust gas, and in range of 600 to 1,000°C for use in the denitration of exhaust gas. By using the resulting heat-treated active carbon for the purpose of desulfurization, the sulfur oxide concentration in exhaust gas can be reduced to 5 ppm or below. Moreover, by using the heat-treated active carbon in combination with conventional denitration based on selective catalytic reduction, the nitrogen oxide concentration in exhaust gas can be reduced to 1 ppm or below.